



CITY OF LODI COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Approve Specifications and Advertise for bids for a Hydraulic Underground Cable Puller (Replacement) (\$80,000) (EUD)

MEETING DATE: May 7, 2008

PREPARED BY: Electric Utility Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve specifications and advertise for bids for a Hydraulic Underground Cable Puller.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Electric Utility's (EUD's) existing hydraulic underground cable puller, purchased in 1993, has served the utility well over the years but maintenance and repair issues dictate that the utility consider replacement at this time. For your information, EUD has sent the hydraulic underground cable puller to two local equipment companies for repair, but neither has been successful in making permanent repairs to the drum puller, the pulling cable level winder or the footage counter which has resulted in delays in completing projects on time.

The hydraulic underground cable puller is a highly specialized piece of equipment used by EUD's construction crews when installing medium voltage cable in underground duct/vault systems. The pulling equipment comes trailer-mounted with a gas/diesel engine operated hydraulic power unit that provides a highly controllable pulling speed and tension through a special steel "pulling cable".

The new hydraulic underground cable puller will come with an air compressor mounted on the trailer so that the steel pulling cable can be blown into the duct system. This eliminates the need for a compressor at the job site -- a savings in time and labor. Over the years, cable manufacturers have developed parameters within which the cable installation must be performed in order to avoid damaging the cable during this process. To obtain the maximum cable life, these standards need to be followed. No other piece of equipment in the utility fleet can be used as a substitute for this application to meet the manufacturer's cable installation requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT: Long term savings will be realized by having underground cable installed properly.

FUNDING: Cost of the purchase is \$80,000 and is included in the EUD 2007/08 budget in Account No. 1611201.

Kirk Evans, Budget Manager

George F. Morrow
Electric Utility Director

APPROVED: _____
Blair King, City Manager